

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1 and 24 as follows. Please add claims 25-28. No new matter has been added. Claims 13-20 have been withdrawn from consideration without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

- 1 1. (currently amended) A maneuverable topiary frame comprising:
 - 2 a) two or more separable members,
 - 3 b) one or more hinges, integrally a part of the frame, and connecting at least two adjoining separable members,
 - 5 c) one or more clips permanently affixed to a member[[:]], and
 - 6 d) an aperture at a bottom of the topiary frame formed by bottom edges of at least two of the separable members when in a closed position;
 - 8 wherein at least one of the hinges adjoining two of the members forms a main structure having an interior side and an exterior side, and wherein the one or more clips when released enable one or more of the two or more separable members to move upon a center axis and pivot or rotate along their one or more hinges such that the interior side of the main structure is completely exposed, and the aperture is parted open along the center axis upon the one or more hinges, allowing for the main structure and aperture to enclose around a growing or grown plant without lifting a base of the plant or the plant from its base, and when engaged secure the two or more separable members from moving, as a three-dimensional unitary form.
- 1 2. (previously presented) The maneuverable topiary frame of claim 1, wherein the two or more separable members further comprise
 - 3 support pieces to support the entire frame; and
 - 4 frame filler along a number of gaps between the support pieces to provide further shape and stability to the frame.

- 1 3. (original) The maneuverable topiary frame of claim 2, wherein the frame filler
- 2 comprises a mesh framework woven over and about the support pieces.

- 1 4. (previously presented) The maneuverable topiary frame of claim 1, wherein said one
- 2 or more hinges are provided by two lengths of wire interwoven along a common axis of two
- 3 separate members.

- 1 5. (previously presented) The maneuverable topiary frame of claim 1, wherein said one
- 2 or more clips are selected from the group consisting of bent wires, hooks, clasps, latches, ties
- 3 and locks.

- 1 6. (original) The maneuverable topiary frame of claim 3, wherein the support pieces are
- 2 constructed of a higher gauge wire than the filler constructed of a lower gauge wire.

- 1 7. (previously presented) The maneuverable topiary frame according to claim 1, wherein
- 2 the three-dimensional unitary form comprises an animal form, having an upper and
- 3 lower extremity set of members corresponding to arms or legs of a particular animal design
- 4 for enclosing topiary foliage;
- 5 the main structure corresponding to a torso region of the animal design; and each of
- 6 the extremity members connecting to the torso region.

- 1 8. (previously presented) The maneuverable topiary frame according to claim 7,
- 2 wherein
- 3 the upper and lower extremity set of members correspond to objects in
- 4 addition to arms or legs;
- 5 the main structure corresponding to a middle region of the animal form; and each of
- 6 the extremity members connecting to the middle region.

- 1 9. (previously presented) The maneuverable topiary frame according to claim 7, wherein
- 2 the animal form is a bear design.

1 10. (previously presented) The maneuverable topiary frame according to claim 8, wherein
2 the animal form is a seal design and the object is a ball shape.

1 11. (previously presented) The maneuverable topiary frame according to claim 1, wherein
2 one or more clips are located opposite the hinge adjoining two members that forms the main
3 structure.

1 12. (previously presented) The maneuverable topiary frame of claim 1 wherein the
2 support pieces are comprised of galvanized metal wires.

1 13. (withdrawn) A method for making a maneuverable topiary frame comprising the
2 steps of:

- 3 a) fashioning support pieces from one or more wires into a desired frame shape
4 using minimal amount of soldering, the frame shape separated into at least two
5 parts;
- 6 b) weaving one or more long wires of thinner gauge than the wire of the support
7 pieces, hereinafter thin wire, to produce a wire mesh filler to fill in a plurality of
8 spaces between the wire of the support pieces, wherein little or no soldering is
9 used to secure the thin wire to the support pieces, thereby minimizing potential
10 safety hazards from sharp edges;
- 11 c) weaving one or more thin wires to connect at least two of the separated parts of
12 the frame shape, thereby forming one or more hinged connections of the separated
13 parts, the hinged connections allowing for movement of the separated parts;
- 14 d) attaching permanently one or more clips to the support pieces, opposite the hinged
15 connection of the separated parts;

16 wherein the support pieces are formed to leave an opening at a bottom of the frame to
17 allow for insertion of a foliage; and

18 wherein the clips when engaged secure the separated parts closed, and when released
19 enable the separated parts to move open along the hinged connection, thereby facilitating
20 insertion and manipulation of the foliage.

1 14. (withdrawn) The method for making a maneuverable topiary frame according to
2 claim 13, wherein the desired shape of the support pieces is an animal design and the
3 separable parts include lower and upper skeletal members of the animal design.

1 15. (withdrawn) The method for making a maneuverable topiary frame according to
2 claim 13, wherein the wires are comprised of galvanized metal.

1 16. (withdrawn) The method for making a maneuverable topiary frame according to
2 claim 13, further comprising the step of coating the wires with a rustproof substance.

1 17. (withdrawn) The method for making a maneuverable topiary frame according to
2 claim 13, wherein the wire mesh filler resembles hexagonal wire and is further hand woven,
3 not press molded, thereby minimizing rough edges.

1 18. (withdrawn) The method for making a maneuverable topiary frame according to
2 claim 13, wherein the wire mesh filler is woven using a single long strand of wire.

1 19. (withdrawn) The method for making a maneuverable topiary frame according to
2 claim 14, wherein the wire mesh filler is woven more densely in some of the lower and upper
3 skeletal members than in other separable parts.

1 20. (withdrawn) A method for making a maneuverable topiary frame, comprising the
2 steps of:

- 3 a) generating a computer layout of a desired topiary frame shape;
- 4 b) fashioning support pieces from one or more wires into the desired frame shape
5 according to the layout, using minimal amount of soldering, the frame shape separated into at
6 least two parts;
- 7 c) weaving one or more long wires of thinner gauge than the wire of the support
8 pieces, hereinafter thin wire, to produce a wire mesh filler to fill in a plurality of spaces
9 between the wire of the support pieces, wherein little or no soldering is used to secure the

10 thin wire to the support pieces, thereby minimizing potential safety hazards from sharp
11 edges;

12 d) weaving one or more thin wires to connect at least two of the
13 separated parts of the frame shape, therein forming one or more hinged connections of the
14 separated parts; the hinged connections allowing for movement of the separated parts;

15 e) attaching permanently one or more clips to the support pieces,
16 opposite the hinged connection of the separated parts;

17 f) coating the topiary frame with a weatherproof or rustproof substance;
18 wherein the clips when engaged secure the separated parts closed, and when released
19 enable the separated parts to move open along the hinged connection to facilitate insertion
20 and manipulation of a foliage.

1 21. (previously presented) The maneuverable topiary frame according to claim 1,
2 wherein the center axis is located at a half way point of the main structure.

1 22. (previously presented) The maneuverable topiary frame according to claim 7,
2 wherein the upper and lower extremity set of members are separable from the main structure
3 and each of the set of members pivots about a hinge connecting each of the set of members
4 to the main structure, each of the set of members further comprising a clip opposite to its
5 hinge for releasing and securing each of the set of members to the main structure.

1 23. (previously presented) The maneuverable topiary frame according to claim 22,
2 wherein the upper and lower extremity set of members correspond to objects in
3 addition to arms or legs;
4 the main structure corresponding to a middle region of the animal form; and each of
5 the extremity members connecting to the middle region.

1 24. (currently amended) A maneuverable topiary frame comprising:
2 a) two or more separable members,
3 b) one or more hinges, integrally a part of the frame, and connecting at least two
4 adjoining separable members,
5 c) one or more clips permanently affixed to a member[[;]], and
6 d) an aperture at a bottom of the frame formed by bottom edges of at least two of the
7 separable members when in a closed position;
8 wherein at least one of the hinges adjoining two of the separable members forms a main
9 structure having an interior side and an exterior side, the two members of the main
10 structure being substantially symmetrical, and wherein the one or more clips
11 when released enable the two symmetrical separable members of the main structure
12 to move upon a center axis and pivot or rotate along their one or more hinges, such that the
13 interior side of the main structure is completely exposed, the aperture is parted open, and
14 the two symmetrical separable members of the main structure are sufficiently opened for
15 positioning around a grown plant with ease in manipulation of the plant throughout all
16 separable members, without lifting a base of the plant or lifting the plant from its base, and
17 when engaged fastens the two separable members of the main structure together
18 around the plant, in the closed position, and secure the two or more separable members
19 from moving, as a three-dimensional unitary form.

1 25. (new) The maneuverable topiary frame according to claim 1 wherein a volume of
2 the frame is about 80% full of a plant foliage when enclosed around a growing plant.

1 26. (new) The maneuverable topiary frame according to claim 1 wherein
2 the three-dimensional unitary form comprises an upper and lower extremity set of members
3 which are separable from the main structure and each of the set of members pivots about a
4 hinge connecting each of the set of members to the main structure, each of the set of
5 members further comprising a clip opposite to its hinge for releasing and securing each of
6 the set of members to the main structure.

1 27. (new) A method for shaping a grown plant into a topiary which comprises
2 utilizing the maneuverable topiary frame of claim 1, rotating open the main structure and
3 aperture along the center axis to envelop the plant without removing the plant from the
4 ground or its base, manipulating branches and foliage of the plant through the members,
5 closing the main structure around the plant, and engaging the one or more clips to secure
6 the two or more separable members.

1 28. (new) A method for shaping a grown plant into a topiary which comprises
2 utilizing the maneuverable topiary frame of claim 24, rotating open the two symmetrical
3 separable members of the main structure and aperture along the center axis to envelop the
4 plant without removing the plant from the ground or its base, manipulating branches and
5 foliage of the plant through the members, closing the main structure around the plant, and
6 engaging the one or more clips to secure the two or more separable members, enabling a
7 user to engage a clip with one hand while holding two separable members together with the
8 other hand.